

## Patent Claims

1. A device for securing the head of a toothbrush in a processing machine, in particular tufting machine, having a retaining part (42) with a retaining flange (62), and having a supporting surface integrally formed on the retaining flange (62), the retaining flange (62) being intended for engaging between a plate-like bristle carrier (28), produced from a rigid plastic, and a retaining crosspiece (34) of the toothbrush head (12), the retaining crosspiece likewise being produced from a rigid plastic, and for supporting the bristle carrier (28) by way of the supporting surface (54).
2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the retaining part (42) has a clamping surface (58) which preferably follows the supporting surface (54), runs transversely to the same and is intended for interacting with a peripheral lateral surface (60) of the bristle carrier (28).
3. The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the clamping surface (58) - as seen in cross section - is of concave design in order to enclose the lateral surface (60).
4. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the retaining flange (62) - as seen in cross section - tapers in the direction of its free end (70) and has a wall thickness of at least 1 mm.
5. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that, on its side which is directed away from the supporting surface (54), the retaining flange (62) has a further supporting surface (54') which is intended for interacting with the retaining crosspiece (34).



6. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5,  
characterized in that the supporting surface (54) and,  
if appropriate, the clamping surface (58) and the  
5 further supporting surface (54') are formed to mate  
with the bristle carrier (28) and/or the retaining  
crosspiece (34).

7. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6,  
10 characterized by two retaining parts (42) which can be  
moved relative to one another between a retaining  
position (44) and a receiving position (48).

8. The device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in  
15 that the retaining flanges (62) of the two retaining  
parts (42) are of mirror-symmetrical design.

9. The device as claimed in claim 7 or 8,  
characterized in that the retaining flanges (62) are  
20 spaced apart from one another in the retaining position  
(44).